FOLIOS THAT DO NOT APPEAR
ARE BLANK AND HAVE NOT
BEEN COPIED

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. June 1877.

CONFIDENTIAL.

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424

FURTHER TELEGRAPHIC CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

May 1877.

54

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. June 1877.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Telegraphic Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

No. 1.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 1.)

Galatz, April 30, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

BRITISH vessel "Industry" remains at Ibraila. I had an interview with Russian Consul and Commander last night. Permission to descend refused. I have written to Consul for confirmation and telegraphed to Ibraila.

No. 2.

Colonel Siborne to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 1.)

Sulina, April 30, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

FRENCH Commissioner and myself cut off from Galatz by sudden stopping of navigation of Danube by Russians. Have telegraphed through Paris for safe-conduct from Russians. Intend remaining here meanwhile.

No. 3.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 1.)

Vienna, April 30, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I WAS told to-day at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that the representations said to have been made by the French Consul to the Khedive against affording military assistance to the Porte had merely reference to the influence which the complications such assistance might have on the interests of the Canal.

No. 4.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 1.)

Vienna, April 30, 1877, 10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Ambassador, in conformity with instructions from Constantinople, gave an assurance to-day to the Austrian Government that Turkish troops would not enter Servia if Russia also engages to respect neutrality of the province.

No. 5.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April* 30, 1877, 10 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of 28th, I have been informed by the Kashgar Envoy that some weeks ago an Afghan was furnished with a letter to the Ameer of Cabul by the Sheikh-ul-Islam inviting him to make war upon the Russians in the cause of Mahometanism, but that the Afghan with the letter and some money given him for his journey has remained at Mecca. Sheikh-ul-Islam has been endeavouring to persuade Kashgar Envoy to return to Turkistan to raise population against Russians, but the latter assures me that he is not disposed to take any part in the matter, at any rate at present. He further informs that the Sheriff of Mecca has sent printed appeals to the Mahometans of Central Asia to rise against Russia in defence of their religion in the event of war between her and Turkey. I hope to get one of these appeals. From all I can learn it is not unlikely that the Porte will endeavour to send Agents into Central Asia.

No. 6.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.——(*Received May* 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April* 30, 1877, 11 P.M.

ADMIRAL HOBART arrived here this evening from the Danube, having run past Russian batteries at Galatz and Rena at such high speed that he could not be fired upon.

He thinks that they will cross the river in force at Isakteha almost without opposition and occupy the Dobrudscha.

He reports the Russians to have crossed the Kilia or northern branch of the Danube at Vilko, and established batteries on the southern bank.

I communicated to him the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 25th instant, and he would wish to take a few days to consider his decision.

No. 7.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 1, 1877, 2·45 P.M.

ENGLISH and French Danube Commissioners are at Sulina; prevented from returning to Galatz by sudden stopping of navigation of Danube by Russian Commander. They have telegraphed for safe conduct. Ask that it may be allowed.

No. 8.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 1, 3·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Constantinople, May* 1, 1877, 10 A.M.

I HAVE been earnestly requested to say that the Turkish Government would be deeply grateful for any information which could be afforded to them of the movements of Russian fleet which is reported to have left the United States for the Mediterranean.

No. 9.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 1, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 1, 1877, 10·15 A.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 21st ultimo, Porte has given the necessary instructions for the preservation from injury of the Anglo-Indian cable.

No. 10.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 1, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

GRAND VIZIER informs me that he has ascertained that the object of the frequent visits of Italian ships-of-war to Durazzo and Vallona was to carry off Prenk Bib Doda.

No. 11.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May* 1, 1877, 1 P.M.

THE Commander-in-chief on the Danube has been instructed by the Porte to take exceptional measures with regard to the property of neutrals on that river during war. He may close all navigation, may detain and requisition neutral vessels, subject to an indemnification, obliging them to leave or repair to certain ports under penalty of confiscation of the vessel and cargo; or even, if necessary, under regulations relating to espionage, which are to be administered by a Special Court appointed *ad hoc*. He is at liberty to adopt any measures dictated by military requirements, but ships detained in the river prior to such measures being proclaimed are not liable to seizure, whether belonging to neutrals or the enemy. The Government refuses to be responsible to shipowners and charterers for loss or hindrance to their property resulting from these measures, or from the danger to which they are exposed through not complying with them. Contraband of war, and the vessel carrying it, when duly determined by the Court, are liable to seizure. All appeals against its decisions to be made to the Supreme Court of Constantinople. The Commander-in-chief is to notify to Consuls interested, and by telegraph to Constantinople, the nature of all measures adopted by him under these instructions.

No. 12.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 1, 1877, 2 P.M.

IN conformity with your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I have informed Prince Gortchakow of the withdrawal of the Turkish request for British protection of their subjects in Russia.

I have also informed the Consuls.

No. 13.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 1, 1877, 6·35 P.M.

DO you think that it would be desirable to station a second gun-boat in the Danube, as recommended in Colonel Mansfield's despatch No. 50 of the 23rd ultimo?

Admiralty have heard that "Cockatrice" is stopped at Sulina by Russians closing navigation.

No. 14.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 1, 6·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 1, 1877, 3 P.M.

DOES your Lordship wish me to telegraph Russian intelligence from seat of war? It will probably be published by English press as early as received here.

No. 15.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, May* 1, 1877.

ALL thirty-eighth division gone to frontier except one battalion in Russia. I have no reliable information of the twentieth division. I think it must be on frontier, as I reported in my despatch No. 34. Statement therein seems correct.

No news of divisions which are at present other side of Caucasus.

Six regiments of cavalry and 20,000 second reserve are to be enrolled at Rostov.

Interpreter returned.

Despatch No. 60 sent.

No. 16.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Erzeroom, May* 1, 1877.

SERIOUS battle yesterday fifteen miles in advance of Kars. Turks routed. Twenty battalions cut off. Must surrender. Kars blockaded. Communication cut off. Commander-in-chief was in Kars during the battle. It appears ( ) in Kars, which will be probably stormed immediately. Russians have heavy siege train. Russians have passed Beynzid; are marching on Topra Kalch. Turks retreating on Delibaba. Russian column marching on Ardahan have reached Oldjick. Great excitement. Panic high. Population being armed and sent to work on Devehbon works eight miles from this. Head-quarters will be probably transferred to Erzinjan.

No. 17.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May* 1, 1877, 6 P.M.

FOLLOWING received from Consul at Erzeroum dated yesterday:—

"Action fought on 28th at Emirhan in Ardahan. Authorities plead ignorance of result. Have seen Governor-General. Said to me, 'We are ruined.'"

No. 18.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May* 1, 1877, 7 P.M.

TURKISH Government has requested Mr. Foster to submit following to Her Majesty's Government:—

The interest and sinking fund of the Turkish 1855 Loan guaranteed by England and France amounts to 250,000*l.* sterling, of which 72,000*l.* is paid by the balance of Egyptian tribute, and the rest out of produce of certain tithes and Customs duties.

1. Would English and French Governments consent that the whole of the 250,000*l.* shall be charged upon tithes and Custom duties, thus freeing the 72,000*l.* of the Egyptian tribute for the purpose of being applied as a partial guarantee for a loan the Government desires to raise?

2. Would English Government enter into any arrangement with the Turkish and Egyptian Governments by which direct transmission of the Egyptian tribute to the Bank of England would be secured in such a manner as to be entirely free from interference on the part of the Turkish Government until all the loans guaranteed by the tribute are completely repaid?

No. 19.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 2.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Pera, May* 1, 1877, 11 P.M.

GERMAN Chargé d'Affaires is using threatening language to the Porte, insisting that Russians should be placed under the protection of Germany, that the Capitulations should be respected with regard to them, and that they shall not be expelled the country. I asked why his Government took this decided and hostile attitude. He answered, "Because we are with the Russians and not with the Turks." The policy now being pursued here by Germany is openly Russian. The Germans, at the particular request of the Emperor Alexander, have occupied Russian Embassy at Buyukdere.

No. 20.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May* 1, 1877, 11·30 P.M.

TELEGRAMS from French, Austrian, and Greek Consuls at Toultcha state that orders have been given by the Turkish Commander-in-chief for the evacuation of the town by its Turkish inhabitants; if foreigners choose to remain they would do it at their risk and peril, the Turkish authorities only undertaking to protect them as long as they are able, and not holding themselves responsible when the Russians attack.

There are no means, the Consuls state, of removing by sea the inhabitants, who amount to 20,000. The Turkish families are leaving by land, and bands of armed Circassians are beginning to plunder. French and Austrian Chargés d'Affaires have represented this state of affairs to Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, who undertook to send orders immediately by telegraph to authorities to afford every protection to foreigners if they left the city. At a meeting at the Embassy this evening of the above-mentioned Chargés d'Affaires and those of Germany and Italy, it was decided to ascertain from the Consuls whether the orders had been sent and obeyed, and if not, that we should make representations to the Porte on the subject.

No. 21.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May* 2, 1877.

NAVIGATION of the Danube suspended by order of the Grand Duke. British interests affected. A firm attitude is being taken at Vienna. Perhaps Her Majesty's Government will also take action.

No. 22.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May* 2, 1877, 11 A.M.

HAVING learnt that Shefket Pasha had been named to the command at Shumla, I remonstrated in the strongest terms with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Grand Vizier.

The latter has sent orders that the appointment is to be cancelled, and Shefket Pasha will be sent to a command at Baghdad, which is considered a kind of exile.

No. 23.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 2, 1877, 2·15 P.M.

BRITISH steamer "Milton," chartered to load coals for Odessa on 9th April, sailed from Leith at midnight on 24th April, before declaration of war was known. Will she be allowed to proceed to Odessa?

No. 24.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 2, 1877, 3·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your secret telegram of yesterday, we have at present no special information to give respecting the movements of the Russian fleet in the Atlantic.

No. 25.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 2, 3·40 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, you need only telegraph any very special war news.

No. 26.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 2, 4·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May* 2, 1877, 11·20 A.M.

COMMANDER of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" at Sulina reports that Turks appear to be paralyzed, not attempting to defend Dobrutscha, having only small garrisons at Toultcha, Isaktcha, and Machin.

As the Sulina would be untenable owing to the blockading Turkish squadron, it is supposed to be the intention of Russians to attack squadron by means of sixteen Thornycroft torpedo launches now on the Danube.

No. 27.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 2, 1877, 5·20 P.M.

ANSWER to Prince Gortchakow's circular went by post last night. Telegraph as soon as you receive it.

No. 28.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Vivian.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 2, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 29th ultimo, Her Majesty's Government understand that there are only two Russian gunboats on the eastern side of the Suez Canal.

Does your information differ? If so, telegraph.

If Her Majesty's Government are accurately informed, there will be no question of a Russian fleet passing through the Canal. No advice, therefore, seems necessary at present.

No. 29.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 2, 1877.

M. DE GIERS has sent copy of your Lordship's telegram requesting safe-conduct for English and French Danube Commissioners to Minister of War, and has telegraphed to Russian Consul at Galatz to use his good offices on their behalf.

No. 30.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 2, 1877, 7 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of May 2, Sir A. Buchanan telegraphs that "no information has been received at Vienna in confirmation of Colonel Mansfields telegram communicated to me yesterday."

No. 31.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May* 2, 1877, 11·30, A.M.

TURKISH Government has been informed from Berlin that the German Government insist upon protecting Russian subjects and interests in the Turkish Empire, and securing to them the privileges of Capitulations; and declare that any attempt to expel Russian subjects cannot be reconciled with position of Turkey among European nations.

German Chargé d'Affaires yesterday protested against seizure by Turkish man-of-war of a Russian ship at Sulina. German Government evidently intend to carry matters here with a high hand.

I have just been informed confidentially that the Porte will give way on this question of German protection.

No. 32.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May* 2, 1877, 1 P.M.

TURKISH Government contemplate declaring Constantinople in state of siege, and a report to that effect has caused great alarm, especially to Europeans. I have strongly advised Porte not to take this step, which might lead to very serious difficulties with foreign Powers and other complications.

I have been told confidentially this morning that the Turkish Government will not adopt this measure unless Russians actually advance upon Constantinople, or other circumstances of a grave nature render it absolutely necessary.

No. 33.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May* 2, 1877, 1·30 P.M.

THE Minister of War gives me the most positive assurances that there is no truth whatever in the reports sent from Erzeroom of a battle between the Turks and Russians, near Kars, in which former were defeated; and that the Government has received telegrams this morning from Moukhtar Pasha, who commands at Kars, stating that the Turkish army has not left that place, and that there has been as yet no fighting.

No. 34.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May* 2, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Erzeroom to-day:—

"Moukhtar Pasha retreated to Yenikeui. Russians at Chirpetli, twenty miles west of Kars. Circassians will not serve under Moussa Pasha. They suspect his being Russian spy. They await arrival of Shamil's son."

No. 35.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 3, noon.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, May 3, 1877, 10 19 A.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that he has told Turkish Chargé d'Affaires that the German Government do not contest the right of the Turkish Government to expel the Russians from Turkey, but that the refusal to admit the protection of Russian interests by a friendly Power is unusual, and calculated to estrange Germany, who is otherwise anxious to keep on the most friendly terms with Turkey.

No. 36.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 3, 3·10 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 3, 1877, 11·20 A.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 1st instant if a second gun-boat can be sent for the Danube, it might be well to place her at Kustendji, where there is an English colony and important English interests that may be exposed to danger.

A protest is being prepared for owners of railway, who are English, to present to Russian authorities in case they should seize or injure it.

No. 37.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 3, 1877, 11·45 A.M.*

IT is of importance to have a better man at Salonica, and I propose, with your approval, to send Mr. Frederick Guarracino there to take charge of the Consulate, and Mr. Barker temporarily to Monastir, also an important place at this moment.

No. 38.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 3, 1877, 12·20 P.M.*

LAST night some bakers' shops in Constantinople were entered by force by Mussulman population and the bread carried off, part on payment of half the price.

Bread riots which may have serious results are apprehended by some. Government unwisely has raised and fixed the price of bread.

No. 39.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Teheran, May 3, 1877.*

THE Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs has sent me a Memorandum complaining urgently of the reoccupation near Mohamrah by Turkey of the recently formed islet in immediate proximity to the island of Khizr, which is undoubtedly, under Erzeroum Treaty, Persian territory.

The Turks are said to have withdrawn from its occupation last summer, under orders from Constantinople, issued in consequence of remonstrances from Persia.

The report of its reoccupation now has caused much excitement here.

The present is a most unfavourable moment for a movement of this sort on the part of Turkey, as it may lead Persia to despatch a force, believed to be already under orders, to the Kermanshah frontier, whose presence there could not fail to hamper Turkey, even if it should not actually cross the frontier.

No. 40.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Barrow.

Foreign Office, May 3, 1877, 5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
IS there any truth in the report that a British steamer has been destroyed by a torpedo at Kertch?

No. 41.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sanderson.

Foreign Office, May 3, 1877, 5·5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
I TELEGRAPHED to Lord A. Loftus to ask for a safe conduct to enable British Danube Commissioner to return to Galatz.

Russian Foreign Minister has communicated request to Minister of War, and has telegraphed to Russian Consul at Galatz to use his good offices.

Inform Colonel Siborne.

No. 42.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sanderson.

Foreign Office, May 3, 1877, 6·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram of 30th ultimo, Her Majesty's Government wish to be informed of the precise or alleged grounds on which the "Industry" has been detained.

No. 43.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, May 3, 1877, 6·55 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
CONSUL at Galatz telegraphed on 30th April that British vessel "Industry" was at Ibraila, and that the Russian Consul and Commander, with whom he had had interviews, had refused permission for the vessel to descend the river.

Her Majesty's Government wish to be informed of the precise or alleged grounds on which the vessel is detained.

No. 44.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 3, 7 P.M.)

Galatz, May 3, 1877, 4·35 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
BRITISH Vice-Consul at Ibraila telegraphs, shots exchanged between two iron-clads and a Russian battery there. Small damage to the town.

No. 45.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, May 3, 1877, 7·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
INDIA Office wish you to inform Captain Molloy that cost of Kashgar Envoy's journey from Constantinople will be defrayed from Indian revenues, on the understanding that he travels direct to England.

He will be regarded as the guest of the Indian Government during his stay here.

No. 46.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May 3, 1877, 12·35 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, the information came from the Minister for Foreign Affairs that firm language is being held at Vienna about Danubian navigation.

Extreme section of Reds agitating to proclaim independence of Roumania.

Impossible to predict course of events.

No. 47.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, May 3, 1877.*

I AM informed that at Roustchouk loaded barges under neutral flag are being stopped. British owners of barges at Turno-Severin fear to move them.

No. 48.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 3, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday notes will be addressed by Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Russian and Turkish Governments asking for a declaration that the free navigation of the Danube will be re-established as soon as operations of war do not render its interruption indispensable.

No. 49.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rustchuk, May 2, 1877.*

CONSULAR Corps at Toultcha reports Governor has received orders on appearance of enemy to evacuate and destroy everything behind him. My French and Austrian colleagues have telegraphed home for safe-conduct from Russian Commander-in-chief for foreigners driven from Toultcha to Ismail. They have also applied for ship of war at Varna. English and French Commissioners gone to Toultcha in "Cockatrice."

No. 50.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 3, 1877, 4·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to Sir Henry Elliot's despatch No. 1303 of last year, the suggestion that a cable should connect Malta with Crete and that England should thus be placed in direct telegraphic communication with Constantinople, is worthy of the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, as our telegraphic lines may at any moment be interrupted, and some of them are so already. It is, however, to be considered whether, in the event of a rising in Crete, the communication could be maintained.

No. 51.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 3, 1877, 5·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 1st, Consuls at Toultcha have telegraphed that Said Pasha has informed them that full warning will be given them of his departure,

and that he will arrange with them, so that time shall be given them to ensure the safety of the persons and property of foreigners.

No. 52.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 3, 1877, 9 P.M.*

FOLLOWING is official notification of blockade of Russian ports in Black Sea:—

Article 1. The Ottoman Government declares the whole of the Russian Coast of the Black Sea, comprised between Churuk Sou, on Asiatic Coast, and the Kilia, mouth of the Danube, in Turkey in Europe, to be in a state of blockade.

Art. 2. The blockade thus established will take effect from the 5th of May, and will be maintained by a sufficiently powerful Ottoman fleet.

Art. 3. A delay of three days, reckoning from the 5th May, is granted to all vessels wishing to proceed to one of the blockaded ports, and a delay of five days to those who wish to clear from the same. At the expiration of this delay any vessel endeavouring either to enter or to quit the blockaded waters will be treated as an enemy.

Art. 4. As regards vessels which, being on the voyage, are ignorant of the state of blockade, the "Ottoman fleet, on their arrival in blockaded waters, shall notify to them the blockade. If, after this special notification, the ships persist in advancing they will be considered as enemies."

No. 53.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 4, 1877, 10·45 A.M.*

IN accordance with your Lordship's instructions, Sir Arnold Kemball started for the head-quarters of the Turkish army in Asia yesterday afternoon. As all regular communication is suspended, I directed the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Antelope" to convey him to Trebizond.

No. 54.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 4, 1877, 12·30 P.M.*

IN consequence of the declaration of the blockade of the Russian ports, which no ship will be allowed to enter after the 5th instant, the steamer mentioned in your Lordship's telegram of the 2nd cannot be allowed to proceed to Odessa.

No. 55.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 4, 1877, 2·40 P.M.*

BRITISH merchants having property at Galatz are alarmed as to losses they may sustain in the event of a bombardment by Turkish men-of-war. Use your best efforts that warehouses at Galatz, in which British property is stored, may be exempted from bombardment or destruction, if possible, in case of attack on the town.

No. 56.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 4, 1877, 2·45 P.M.*

MESSRS. THEOLOGO have written to me about the danger to loss with which their property at Galatz is threatened under present circumstances.

You should use your best efforts for the preservation of British property.

No. 57.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 4, 1877, 3·30 P.M.

SIR COLLINGWOOD DICKSON is appointed additional Military Attaché to your Embassy.

No. 58.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 4, 4·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Pera, May* 4, 1877, 1 P.M.

I AM informed very confidentially that four Russian ships-of-war have been reported off the eastern coast of Italy in the Adriatic, and that their object is suspected to be to raise Crete or the Christian population of Turkey in Albania and Bosnia, and to give assistance to Montenegrins.

Porte believes that it can take measures to keep Russian fleet in check, or to give it battle with every chance of success.

No. 59.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 4, 1877, 6·10 P.M.

CAPTAIN GRENFELL, who has been appointed Naval Attaché to the Maritime Courts, is going shortly to St. Petersburgh. He will start for Berlin to-morrow.

Telegraph to me and repeat to Lord Odo Russell whether you think that under present circumstances Captain Grenfell will be allowed the usual facilities.

No. 60.

Consul Barrow to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Kertch, May* 4, 1877.

REPORT untrue. Russian steamers most attentive in piloting ships in and out. Not one accident has occurred to my knowledge, nor likely to.

No. 61.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 4, 1877.

HAVE made necessary representation in regard to vessel detained at Ibraila. Russian Government will communicate with Russian military authorities at Ibraila. They are preparing regulations for the protection of foreign commercial interests.

No. 62.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Adrianople, May* 4, 1877.

SPECIAL Agent of Bulgarian Relief Committee arrived here last night from province of Philippopolis, and reported as follows:—

"Everywhere quiet prevails Turks eager for the Russian war, but very well behaved towards the Bulgarians. A few Circassian raids on cattle are reported, but not more than usual. Adrianople is also very quiet, but news of English neutrality has painfully impressed the people."

No. 63.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, May* 4, 1877, 1·30, P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 2nd, I have no further information to confirm language of the Russian Agent respecting Russian naval movements, which may have been meant to intimidate.

Porte has telegraphed to the Viceroy regulations promulgated at Constantinople regarding Russian shipping, neutral commerce, &c., with directions that the rules for the Bosphorus and Dardanelles are to be applied to the Suez Canal.

Egyptian Government have thereupon taken following decision:—

To stop passage of Russian men-of-war through the Canal.

To permit passage of all other men-of-war, and all mercantile marine, Russian inclusive, subject to the right of search for contraband of war.

Entrance to the Canal will be guarded by torpedoes carefully placed, and passage for commerce will be buoyed.

If reprisals are made by Russia, her mercantile marine will be stopped.

Decision will be officially notified after approval at Constantinople.

Question of number of troops to be sent to Turkey still in abeyance.

No. 64.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May* 3, 1877, 3·30 P.M.

THE Roumanian Agent promises to communicate to me the copy of a note which he addressed to Minister for Foreign Affairs three days ago, declaring that Roumania had no intention of declaring war, or of changing her relations with the Porte.

Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, from whom I received the information reported in my telegram of yesterday, appears still to know nothing of this communication.

No. 65.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 4, 1877.

INFORM Austrian Government that as soon as Her Majesty's Government learn terms of note on subject of free navigation of Danube, they will readily make a similar representation, and will be happy to join Austria in any steps for protection of neutral commerce and interests.

No. 66.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, May* 4, 1877.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs tells me that the Porte appears willing to agree to German protection of Russian interests, and that he hopes the question will now be speedily settled.

No. 67.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 4, 1877, 2·15 P.M.

I HAVE received a note from M. de Giers, stating that the Russian military authority granted permission to English Danube Commissioner to return to Galatz, provided he returns by land.

No. 68.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 4.)

(Télégraphique.) *Bucarest, le* 4 *Mai*, 1877.

MONITORS Turcs tirent sur batteries près de Reni depuis matin.

No. 69.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, May* 4, 1877.

TURKISH iron-clad has been firing on batteries below Reni since morning.

No. 70.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May* 4, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

THE following is the substance of the answers given to the questions put to the Government on the subject of the war:—

1. Everything possible will be done to prevent its causing European complications.

2. With reference to its effect on the state of things in the East, such influence will be used under all circumstances as the situation and the interests of the Monarchy may require. With a view to the protection of these interests, the Government will reserve, notwithstanding a declaration of neutrality, their freedom of action. Until now the Government have been able to follow the course of events without military preparations, and they will remain stedfast to the principle of not burdening the State by a mobilization for which there is no cause, and at present they see no reason for military measures. On the other hand, the Government, being conscious that no Power has more immediate and important interests to defend in the east of Europe than Austria, are aware of the full measure of their responsibility.

No. 71.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May* 4, 1877, 4·30 P.M.

IT is reported that a Roumanian force, with twenty heavy guns of position (probably Russian) has reoccupied Kalafat.

No. 72.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May* 5, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 3rd instant, I have reason to believe that the question between Persian and Turkish Governments with regard to islet in the Euphrates will be satisfactorily settled.

No. 73.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May* 5, 1877, 10·40 A.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, conduct of German Chargé d'Affaires here, and the instructions which he states to have received, are quite at variance with assurances given at Berlin, as your Lordship will find by my despatches.

No. 74.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 5.)

Pera, May 5, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

PLEASE inform Admiralty that I have requested Captain Drummond to remain here until I have heard from Kustendji whether presence of ship-of-war is absolutely necessary there. As "Antelope" is away there would be no vessel-of-war here, and there would be probably some difficulty in obtaining permission for the "Helicon" to pass Dardanelles.

As soon as "Antelope" returns, "Rapid" will go to meet "Helicon," and then a ship can be spared for Kustendji. If Vice-Consul at Kustendji informs me that presence of a ship of war is really urgent, "Rapid" will go at once.

No. 75.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 5.)

Pera, May 5, 1877, 12·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegram has been sent by Porte to Vali of the Danube:—

"Give all possible facilities to foreign subjects desirous of leaving Toultcha by river or otherwise. Inform immediately Consuls of measures definitively adopted for evacuation of town by foreigners."

No. 76.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 5, 2·20 P.M.)

Paris, May 5, 1877, 1 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed that a private arrangement has been made by the Comptoir d'Escompte at Paris in concert with a Berlin firm and a St. Petersburgh firm, to advance to Russian Government from 3,000,000*l.* to 5,000,000*l.* sterling, at 8 per cent.

No. 77.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 5.)

St. Petersburgh, May 5, 1877, 1·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MY private opinion is that visit of Captain Grenfell at this moment will not be well viewed here; nor do I think that usual facilities will be granted, as Russia is at war.

The feeling here is very bitter against England.

No. 78.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, May 5, 1877, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 49, unless there is urgent necessity to replace Mr. Barker, it would be better to avoid any Consular changes at this moment. The subject is under consideration, and no salary is at present available for Monastir.

No. 79.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sanderson.

Foreign Office, May 5, 1877, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

REPRESENTATION has been made at St. Petersburgh respecting detention of industry, and Russian Government will communicate with their military authorities at

Ibraila. Regulations are being prepared by Russian Government for the protection of foreign commercial interests.

No. 80.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 5, 1877, 6·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 59, Commander Drummond has been instructed to comply with your wishes as to his movements.

No. 81.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 5, 1877, 7 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 35, Indo-European Company ask me to mention, in order to avoid misunderstanding, that their line from the Straits of Kertch to the Persian frontier is a land and not a submarine line.

No. 82.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, May 5, 1877.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, might not defence of the Suez Canal by torpedoes be very dangerous to neutral vessels, and particularly to our transports?

There are certainly no other defences available; but I think a simple prohibition would suffice, as I doubt if a Russian man-of-war would enter the Canal to be caught in a trap.

Shall I say anything upon this point?

No. 83.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 5, 1877, 9 P.M.*

I RECEIVED to-day, by post, your Lordship's despatch No. 160, and shall communicate it to Prince Gortchakow to-morrow morning.

No. 84.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 5, 1877, 10·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Minister of Marine has given orders that, in the event of bombardment of Galatz, British property should be spared as much as possible, but he requests that British flag should be hoisted on British premises at once. Will your Lordship telegraph to Consul? I have no means of so doing.

No. 85.

Colonel Nixon to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bagdad, May 5, 1877.*

PERSIAN troops in Arabistan concentrated on the Karoon River, eight miles from Mahomeras, some of them armed with Chassepot rifles.

No. 86.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, May 5, 1877.*

A BOAT was sent from Ismail on 1st of May to Toultscha to inform Colonel Siborne he could land at Ismail. To-day news received boat has returned without answer, communication with Turkey being interrupted. I have telegraphed, begging Ambassador at Vienna to inform Constantinople. Austrian Commissioner has telegraphed through Vienna to Sulina.

No. 87.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sanderson.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 6, 1877, 11·30 A.M.*

TURKISH Minister of Marine has given orders that in case of bombardment of Galatz, British property should be spared, as far as possible, but he requests that British flag should be hoisted on British premises at once.

No. 88.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 6, 1877, 12·30 P.M.*

I COMMUNICATED this morning your Lordship's despatch No. 160 to Prince Gortchakow. On my finishing its perusal His Highness said that, not wishing to commence a polemical discussion, he should refrain, unless ordered otherwise by the Emperor, from replying to it.

No. 89.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 6, 1877, 3 P.M.*

I COMMUNICATED yesterday to Baron Orczy the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 4th instant, expressing the readiness of Her Majesty's Government to join Austria in representing to belligerents with regard to maintenance of future freedom of Danube, and Count Andrassy has informed me to-day that he will give immediate instructions for the communication to your Lordship of the notes which he had addressed to Russian and Turkish Governments on the subject.

No. 90.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 6.)

(Telegraphic.) (Confidential.) *Vienna, May 6, 1877, 3·15 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to-day to Count Andrassy your Lordship's answer to the Russian Circular. He gave evident signs of satisfaction whilst reading it, and having finished it said, if the Circular was to receive an answer no other could have been given to it. I left a copy of despatch with him to be translated for communication to the Emperor.

No. 91.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 6, 1877, 6·30 P.M.*

I LEARN from the Minister of Foreign Affairs that Austro-Hungarian declaration of neutrality is about to be issued at Vienna and Pesth by the Presidents of the two Governments, which will be maintained as long as war does not affect interests of monarchy.

No. 92.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, May 6, 1877.*

RUSSIAN Consul writes:—

"Industry" not detained. Her passage down river is prevented in her own interest. She would run risk of almost inevitable loss; below Reni passage is open.

No. 93.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 6.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Constantinople, May 6, 1877, 11 A.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of 2nd instant, it appears that Shefket Pasha was not to have a command at Bagdad. Minister of War has sent to ask me whether I would consent to his being employed in Armenia, where there is a great want of competent officers. I am informed that Shefket Pasha is a very active officer, and may be of great use, but I cannot agree to Minister of War's proposal without your Lordship's sanction. Please reply immediately.

No. 94.

Vice-Consul Stokes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sulina, May 6, 1877.*

OTTOMAN authorities refuse to allow me to proceed to my post at Tultcha to protect British subjects and interests. What am I to do? Instruct me: Ottoman Governor told me that if I went, the steamer under British flag would be seized or sunk.

No. 95.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 6, 1877, 11 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Erzeroum dated to-day:—

"Kars completely surrounded. Circassian villages in Sohanlee occupied. Provisions paid well by Russians. Generals have published strict orders to maintain discipline. Villagers directed to arrest Cossacks attempting to pillage. This action has produced very favourable impression in the country. As Russian army advances, villagers, Muhammedans and Christians, go to meet it with pleasure. Giule and Childir occupied by Ardahan column, which is advancing with the evident intention of turning Soganlee position by way of Penee. It seems evident main body remains in Kars plain to allow wings to close round Soganlee by way of Penee and Cuprieui. If manœuvre successful, Turkish army must surrender. People arriving from Kars report demoralization there and among troops at Soganlee. Here arrival of the enemy is regarded by Armenians as certain in about three weeks. They may have secret information. Circassian and irregular cavalry are arriving."

No. 96.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 6, 1877, 11·30 P.M.*

BLUHM PASHA leaves to-morrow morning to commence immediately the fortification of the lines from Buyuk Tchekmedjé to Durkos for the defence of Constantinople. He is also charged to make a plan for the defence of Adrianople.

No. 97.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 7, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 62, we cannot interfere with the Turkish Government in their choice of officers. The effect on public opinion of the appointment of Shefket Pasha to an important command would be very bad, as his conduct is generally considered here to have deserved the severest punishment.

No. 98.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7, 1·20 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 7, 1877, 10·45 A.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Persian Minister gives me most solemn assurance that Persia has no intention of concentrating troops on the frontiers of Arabistan, and neither he nor Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs have heard anything of the presence of Persian troops near Mohammerah.

No. 99.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 7, 1877, 3·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram sending notification of blockade of Russian ports in Black Sea, does Turkish Government intend Kertch to be the port where the notice begins to count, or does it give time for vessels to proceed to the several ports in the Sea of Azof and return to Kertch, counting the five days allowed for departure at the port where they have been discharging?

Secondly, Does the notification apply to vessels which had reached their port of discharge on the Sea of Azof, and are being reloaded before it was issued?

No. 100.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 7, 1877, 5·45 P.M.*

SIR COLLINGWOOD DICKSON leaves for Constantinople on Thursday. Have you all the maps and plans that your require? if not he could bring them.

No. 101.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 7, 1877, 5·50 P.M.*

"HELICON" sailed from Malta for Constantinople direct at 10 o'clock on Saturday night.

No. 102.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 7, 1877, 6·40 P.M.*

BRITISH merchants are strongly representing that the days of grace allowed for neutral vessels in notification of blockade are insufficient.

Use your best efforts to obtain a prolongation sufficient to meet cases of vessels now on their way to Russian ports.

The United States allowed fifteen days, and longer periods have been allowed by other nations.

No. 103.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.[*]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 7, 1877.*

INQUIRE if the Government to which you are accredited will join in the following representation which I sent to Mr. Layard this afternoon :—

British merchants are strongly representing that the days of grace allowed for neutral vessels in notification of blockade are insufficient.

Use your best efforts to obtain a prolongation sufficient to meet cases of vessels now on their way to Russian ports.

The United States allowed fifteen days, and longer periods have been allowed by other nations.

No. 104.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, May 7, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 6th, I have informed British subjects that they should hoist British flag. There are batteries or troops quartered in Galatz itself. Commercial interests are almost exclusively foreign; even houses used as public buildings are chiefly owned by foreigners.

No. 105.

Colonel Nixon to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bagdad, May 7, 1877.*

SHAHZADAH arrived at Mahomerah with a force and two guns. Movement considered suspicious, as there is no occasion for the concentration of troops there.

No. 106.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bosna-Serai, May 7, 1877.*

GOVERNOR-GENERAL informs me that Ismet Pasha telegraphs that he has driven all the insurgents in the north-west across the frontier into Austria. I should be glad to hear this confirmed.

Freeman not yet arrived.

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[*] Similar telegrams were sent to Berlin, Vienna, and Rome.

No. 106 A.

Consul Carruthers to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Taganrog, May 7, 1877.*

AUSTRIAN Consul officially informed from Vienna blockade Black Sea ports commenced 5th instant; further term of three days allowed for departure. About ten British steamers here loading. Cannot possibly pass Kertch within said term. Your Lordship's intercession with the Porte requested for prolongation of term on account of the important interests involved.

No. 106 B.

The Danube European Commission to the Earl of Derby.

(Télégraphique.) *Galatz, le 7 Mai, 1877.*

LES Délégués Austro-Hongrois se trouvant seul au siége de la Commission ouverture de la session printemps reste ajournée jusque avis ultérieur, les Délégués de France et d'Angleterre sont empêché de venir par interdiction de la navigation. Délégué Allemand par affaires, Délégués Ottoman, Russe, Italien, n'ont pas donné nouvelles. Pour la Commission Européenne.

No. 107.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 7, 1877, 7·15 P.M.*

THE question of amnesty to the imprisoned Bulgarians having been submitted to Sultan, His Majesty has expressed readiness to grant it, and it will be announced immediately. Sultan has also expressed wish that Shefket Pasha, who is now here, recalled from his command on the Danube, shall receive no appointment whatever.

With regard to Turkish criminals condemned for Bulgarian outrages, Safvet Pasha has proposed, subject to the Grand Vizier's approval, that they shall be sent to undergo their sentences to Benghazi, in Africa, where they will be under the supervision of a British Vice-Consul. I am afraid that it will be utterly impossible to obtain execution of sentence of death pronounced upon two of them in the present temper of the nation.

(Very Confidential.)—I would venture to suggest to your Lordship to communicate above to Parliament, except as to mentioning Sultan's name in connection with Shefket Pasha.

No. 108.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 7, 1877, 10 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of this morning, Minister of War informs me that he has telegraphed to the Governor of Bagdad to ascertain whether there is any truth as to Persians concentrating near Mohammerah. Governor has replied that rumours to that effect had reached him through secret agents, but the Minister of War attaches no great importance to them.

Following just received from Colonel Nixon, dated 7th instant :—

"Shahzade arrived at Mohammerah with a force and two guns. Movement is considered suspicious, as there is no reason for concentration of troops there."

No. 109.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, May 8, 1877.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs will instruct German Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to support request for a prolongation of days of grace for neutral vessels in the notification of blockade as suggested by your Lordship.

No. 110.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 8, 1877.*

CAPTAIN GRENFELL had better not proceed to St. Petersburgh at present.

He should proceed to the German ports in the Baltic, and endeavour to learn there what he can of Russian naval preparations and probable movements.

You should give him any advice and assistance you can to enable him to obtain such information.

No. 111.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 8, 1877, 1·30 P.M.*

I HAVE been informed confidentially that the Sultan yesterday decided upon the admission of Christians into the army, and ordered a Decree to that effect to be prepared at once.

No. 112.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May 8, 1877.*

ROUMANIAN Ministry, under the influence of Prince Charles, is drifting more and more towards war with the Porte and a declaration of independence.

No. 113.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 8, 1877.*

BARON LOHNEYSEN, a cavalry officer, and formerly aide-de-camp of Emperor, and another Austrian officer, have received permission to join the head-quarters of Russian army of Danube.

No. 114.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 8, 1877.*

THE Austro-Hungarian Government have already made a representation at Constantinople in favour of vessels loading in Russian ports being allowed more than five days' grace, and with reference to your telegram to Mr. Layard of yesterday, they will further send instructions to ask for fifteen days for vessels taking in cargo, and a sufficient time to meet the cases of vessels on their way to Russian ports.

No. 115.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 8, 1877.*

PRINCE REUSS is expected here to-day, and will sail for Constantinople on Saturday by the same Trieste steam-packet in which Count Zichy will return to his post.

No. 116.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 8, 1877, 2·25 P.M.*

WITH reference to Mr. Holmes's telegram, forwarded to me by your Lordship yesterday, I am informed that about ten days ago about twenty insurgents who were driven across Bosnian frontier near Bishacs were disarmed by Austrian authorities, but nothing of the kind has occurred since. It frequently happens, however, that insurgents make towards the frontier of Turkey, and troops do not take measures to oblige them to cross it.

No. 117.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, May 8, 1877, 2 P.M.*

IN consequence of representations of several Chambers of Commerce, the Minister for Foreign Affairs has already instructed Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to represent hardship of short term allowed to neutral vessels to leave and enter Russian ports. His Excellency is grateful for communication of instructions to Mr. Layard, and will at once desire Chargé d'Affaires to join his efforts to obtain a prolongation of the period of grace.

No. 118.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 8, 1877, 5 P.M.*

THE Turkish Government having now agreed to allow Russian subjects to remain in Turkey under German protection, have renewed their request that Turkish subjects in Russia may be placed under British protection.

Her Majesty's Government have consented, and you will inform Russian Government and instruct Consuls accordingly.

No. 119.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 8, 1877, 7 P.M.*

IT has been represented to Her Majesty's Government that large British steamers after loading at Nicolaieff, Taganrog, and some other ports in the Black Sea and Sea of Azoff, are obliged to discharge a portion of their cargo into lighters in order to enable them to pass the bars at Ochakow, Yenikale, and other places. The operation of loading and unloading occupies several days, and the owners fear that by reason of this delay they may risk the capture of their vessels or of the lighters.

I have to instruct you to explain the position of these vessels to the Turkish Government, and to ask that extra time may be allowed them for lightening and reloading their vessels on passing the bars.

No. 120.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, May 8, 1877, 5·10 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, French Minister for Foreign Affairs instructs French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to join Her Majesty's Ambassador in endeavouring to obtain a prolongation of the days of grace allowed to neutral vessels.

No. 121.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 8, 1877.*

VICE-CONSUL at Toultcha telegraphs that Captain of "Cockatrice" proposes leaving for Sulina on the 10th to avoid complications.

No. 122.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 8, 1877, 11·55 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 7th instant, I am informed that the Porte consents to extend term for neutral vessels entering and leaving blockaded ports by seven days respectively; consequently vessels may go in up to the 15th, and out up to the 17th, inclusive.

No. 123.

Consul Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, May 9, 1877.*

VARIOUS Consuls received telegrams that ships must clear to-morrow.

Italian Consul just received telegram seven days' respite granted. Many English ships desiring information.

No. 124.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 9, 1877.*

BRITISH shipowners represent strongly that owing to the conditions of the Black Sea trade in regard to lighterage and similar matters, and probability of accidental delays, the days of grace will be insufficient, even with the extension, to meet numerous cases and avert heavy losses to British commerce.

They urge that the time of grace should be regulated so as to admit of all neutral vessels entering the Black Sea before the 15th, being allowed to discharge and load in their port of destination.

Ask the Porte if this can be acceded to.

No. 125.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 9, 1877, 3·30 P.M.*

BRITISH owners of tugs and lighters on the Danube near Galatz have applied to Her Majesty's Government respecting danger of seizure and destruction to which their property is exposed by proceedings of Turkish naval and military authorities. They are

anxious to send the tugs and lighters into Austrian waters. Urge strongly upon Porte to send orders to permit these vessels to ascend the river without molestation from gun-boats or forts.

No. 126.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Teheran, May 9, 1877, 3·45 P.M.*

THE Russian Minister having requested a strictly private audience of the Shah to deliver a message from the Emperor, was received by His Majesty alone on the 5th instant. He then repeated the communication previously made to the Persian Government referred to in my telegram of 30th ultimo. The Shah referred him to his Minister, with whom accordingly he had an interview the day before yesterday, when he was informed that the Persian Government, considering there was no call upon them to interfere on behalf of the Christians, three of the great Christian Powers being themselves neutral, and that they were bound, as a Mahommedan Power, to consult the interests of Islamism, had resolved unanimously, notwithstanding their sympathies with Russia, and their grievances against, and national dislike to, Turkey, to remain neutral in the present war.

No. 127.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May 9, 1877.*

RUSSIAN forces are occupying strategical positions in the west of Moldavia, on the roads leading from the Austrian frontier.

Some shots were exchanged between Roumanian force at Kalafat and the Turks at Widdin. Roumanian Government state that Turks began.

No. 128.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, May 9, 1877.*

RUSSIANS' heavy guns opened fire from Ibraila and Turkish gun-boats left.

No. 129.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 9, 1877.*

I HAVE read to Count Beust, in the strictest confidence, my note to Count Schouvaloff of May 6. You may therefore also read or mention it to Count Andrassy, but in strict confidence, and to no one else.

No. 130.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 10, 1877, 10.15 A.M.*

GRAND VIZIER informs me that the Russians crossed the Danube yesterday, but not in great force, opposite Galatz, and that they have commenced bombarding Widdin from Kalafat.

No. 131.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Vivian.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 10, 1877, 3·10 P.M.

YOUR telegram of the 5th instant has been referred to the Board of Admiralty, and they concur with you as to the danger to neutral vessels of a torpedo system of defence. Orders have been given to Admiral Hornby to station an iron-clad at Port Said.

No. 132.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 10, 1877, 4·10 P.M.

Captains M'Calmont, Trotter, and Fife are temporarily attached to Her Majesty's Embassy, and will leave for Constantinople this evening viâ Marseilles.

No. 133.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 10, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic) *Rome, May* 10, 1877, 3 P.M.

COUNT CORTI informs me he is to leave for Constantinople Saturday.

No. 134.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May* 10, 1877.

GREEK war-steamer intercepted off Zea a Greek vessel from Phalerium with nineteen brigands and pirates, well supplied with arms, intending to commit depredations in Turkey. All captured and brought to Athens.

No. 135.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby:—(Received May 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, May* 10, 1877.

TSCHENZES south of Grosnaya revolted; (parties?) of these attacked a Russian fort, but were beaten off. Despatch No. 69 sent.

No. 136.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 11, 1877.

FOLLOWING from Captain Musgrave, dated yesterday:—

"It is not true that the Russians crossed the Danube. The Governor was my authority."

No. 137.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 11, 1877, 3·45 P.M.

HAS the manifesto referred to in your telegram of 25th ultimo, respecting Russian subjects and vessels, and commerce of neutrals, been issued?

No. 138.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Vivian.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 11, 1877, 3·55 P.M.

HAS the decision of the Egyptian Government respecting Suez Canal, referred to in your telegram of 4th instant, been approved by Porte and officially notified?

No. 139.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 11, 1877.

THE Berlin correspondent of the "Times" to-day telegraphs that there has been a correspondence between the editor of the "Ruski-Mir" and Colonel Wellesley respecting an assertion in the "Ruski-Mir" that immediately before the Russian declaration of war Lord Beaconsfield expressed his conviction, founded on reports from Colonel Wellesley, that Russia could not go to war.

This statement is entirely without foundation, and Her Majesty's Government wish you to make this known to the Russian Government.

No. 140.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 11, 1877, 6 P.M.

ITALIAN Consul at Jerusalem reports apprehension on the part of Europeans there and throughout Palestine as to weakness of garrison and risk of disorders. They fear that troops will be removed and only local militia left. Bedouins are said to be threatening the country.

Italian Government wish us to join in common representation to the Porte.

Let me know if you think position of affairs in Palestine corresponds with this account. Should Consul Moore's reports lead you to think danger imminent, represent to the Porte the necessity of taking measures for security of life and property.

No. 141.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 11, 1877, 5 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of 9th instant Porte yesterday addressed a telegram to Serdar Ekrem, directing him to allow English tugs and lighters now in the Danube to ascend the river if possible into Austrian waters. He is to make arrangements with Her Majesty's Consul at Rustchuk. With this object I have telegraphed in this sense to Mr. Reade.

No. 142.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 11, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of 5th instant Porte informed Imperial Ministry of Marine, on the 7th instant, that the Indo-European telegraph line from Kertch to Persian frontier was not a submarine cable, and the Ministry will issue instructions in order to avoid any misunderstanding in this respect.

No. 143.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 11, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegrams of 8th and 9th instant, Porte has decided that vessels at Azoff or Nicolaiew may leave those ports up to the 17th instant inclusive, and shall then be considered to be on their voyage so that they may pass the Straits of Kertch or Ochakoff after the term of delay has expired. Their papers, however, must prove that they quitted those ports within the time specified.

No. 144.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 11, 1877, 7 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 53, Porte has communicated the following official notification relating to blockade of Russian ports in Black Sea:—

"The delay fixed by Article 3 of the Official Notice of May 3, 1877, is prolonged seven days. A delay of ten full days, reckoning from May 5, N.S., is granted to all vessels wishing to enter blockaded ports, and delay of twelve days to those wishing to leave. At the expiration of this delay, all ships attempting either to enter or leave blockaded waters will be treated as enemies. Ships now in the Sea of Azoff or at Nicolaieff will not be considered as infringing the blockade if it is proved that they sailed hence during the delay of twelve days at present granted."

No. 145.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 11, 1877, 7·45 P.M.

SULTAN has sent Said Pasha, the Chief of his Military Household, to request me to convey to the Queen and Her Majesty's Government the expression of his deep gratitude for the answer returned by Her Majesty's Government to Prince Gortchakow's Circular. His Majesty begs me to say that he and his people feel most deeply the justice done by the Queen and Her Majesty's Government to them.

No. 146.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 11; *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 11, 1877, 10·45 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Erzeroom, dated yesterday:—

"Russian right wing occupies Gaisman. Left wing working round by Aintab, probably with the object of turning Delibaba and entering pass in the plain.

"Letters of 6th May from Kars state that Russians hold positions around fortress from nine to fifteen miles distant. Several outpost skirmishes of no importance. Provisions already getting dear. Government reports action in Ardahan, resulting in preventing Russians bridging a stream. Kurds continue promising, but do not come forward. Circassians here get insubordinate, making demands Government cannot meet. Difficulty will be encountered in getting them to advance if not paid."

No. 147.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, May* 11, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

PORTE approves proposed regulations for Suez Canal, but reserves decision as to allowing passage of Russian merchant-vessels. Egypt has no other possible means of

defending Canal than torpedoes; but if Viceroy can learn from Aden when a Russian man-of-war passes, he will only then lay them down. Chamber of Delegates has voted about 500,000*l.* to pay for assistance to Turkey and about 10,000 men will be sent, making total of the Egyptian contingent about 18,000 men. Three Turkish men-of-war expected immediately to convoy them.

No. 148.

Mr. Erskine to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Stockholm, May* 11, 1877.

THE King has this day applied to the Diet for a credit of 111,000*l.* to enable him, if necessary, to uphold the neutrality of Sweden.

No. 149.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, May* 11, 1877.

IT is said that arms are being sent by Russian to Armenian Christians near Van and other places. Also that the force near Akhalkalaki is moving towards Kars. I cannot vouch for truth of above, but it is worthy of investigation. Grand Duke is here, but will leave soon.

Revolution said to be quieted.

No. 150.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Crete, May* 11, 1877.

GENERAL Assembly open yesterday. Three principal Christian members on the part of the rest came to propose this country to be made Principality under British protection. I have told them that Her Majesty's Government cannot encourage rebellion. Members much concerned at answer.

Insurrection likely.

No. 151.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May* 12, 1877.

THE debate yesterday in the Roumanian Chamber indicates that absolute independence will probably not be pressed at present.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that he considered them at war with the Porte in a defensive sense. Minister President was more advanced in his language.

No. 152.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 12, 1877, 12·45 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I fear that there may be cause for anxiety in Palestine, as there is in many other parts of Turkey, and I am doing all in my power to induce Porte to take measures for security of life and property, but it replies that engaged as it is in a life and death struggle, it is compelled to bring up all the force it can dispose of to the front, and those who brought on the war must be answerable for the consequences. However, I will continue to do my best.

No. 153.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 12, 1877, 12·50 P.M.*

MANIFESTO referred to in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday sent home in my No. 417 of the 8th instant.

No. 154.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 12, 1877, 2·30 P.M.*

THE Turkish Government states that great battle was fought near Batoum. Turks victorious. Russians lost 4,000 men killed.

No. 155.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, May 12, 1877.*

TURKISH iron-clad near Ibraila blown up by a shell from Russian batteries.

No. 156.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 12, 1877, 6 P.M.*

BRITISH shipowners desire to know whether ships in blockaded ports may continue to load up to date of departure. They assume that this was the intention of the Porte. Please ascertain and report.

No. 157.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 12, 7 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Paris, May 12, 1877, 4 P.M.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that a telegram has passed through Paris to-day from the Emperor Alexander, to his son in America, saying that squadron in which he is serving is ordered to come immediately to Cronstadt, but that to console him for his disappointment, he shall have command in the active army on shore.

No. 158.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, May 12, 1877.*

FREEMAN arrived. Affair of Glamotch misrepresented; a bride outraged. Confusion and inaccuracy regarding affairs at Otchievo, which was a known resort of insurgents, and which was attacked because Turks had information that Christians were assembling there to destroy Mussulman villages of Orastritza and Tchukovo. Turks declare they were resisted. Details impossible by telegraph. Full report by next post.

No. 159.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 12, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, May 12, 1877, 3 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, Porte objects to Viceroy's proposal to authorize passage of Russian merchant-vessels through Suez Canal, and insists on their liability in the Canal, as in all Egyptian ports, to the measures applied to them in the other ports of the Empire.

Porte signifies its readiness to send naval force to Red Sea, if necessary, to protect ports against Russian men-of-war.

Viceroy maintaining his views with respect to the neutrality of the Canal, proposes to remind Porte of Article 14 of the Act of Concession; to say that having no means of defending Canal entrance except by torpedoes, the dangers of which are obvious, if Porte insists on exclusion of Russian merchantmen, it must send ships to enforce its orders.

Meanwhile Russian merchantmen will be allowed to enter, and Viceroy suggests that if Her Majesty's Government approve his view they might support it at Constantinople.

No official notification will be made till this question is settled.

As a matter of fact very few Russian merchantmen use Canal.

No. 160.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 12, 1877, 7 P.M.*

FOLLOWING received from Military Secretary, dated Erzeroum, Saturday 10 A.M.:—

"Arrived here Thursday sunset. Saw Governor yesterday and this morning. Russians still halting before the forts, but have occupied Bayazid and Kagisman. They are very probably prevented by snow from concerted advance.

"The passes, I am told, will not be fully open for ten or fifteen days. Turkish forces defend passes near Penek, Bardek, Millidoz, and Delibaba, with position at Toprak Kalé; in all, about 35 battalions.

"At Ardahan are 10 battalions, and at Kars 30 battalions. Fall of Ardahan apprehended. Will learn further particulars from Sultan's Aide-de-camp just arrived from Bardek. After inspection of fortifications here, propose to post to Bardek. Works reported deficient at all points."

No. 161.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 12, 1877.*

FOLLOWING from Consul at Erzeroum, dated to-day, 2 P.M.:—

"Snow and swollen rivers have proved too serious obstacles. Russian left wing has fallen back from Aintab road and was near Enelichee two days since. A column was detached to occupy Kargisman, about 8,000 holding Bayazid.

"Communication by telegraph re-established with Kars on 9th. Russians have withdrawn from Chiplaklee to Touragel. Right wing is advancing. Circassians committing great excesses on roads, ill-treating Mahomedans and Christians, and authorities. Villages begin to be deserted on line of march close to Erzeroum. Provisions scarce at Dignir in Soganlee. Authorities here being hard pressed to furnish are exhausting the town, and inhabitants are beginning to feel the pressure."

No. 162.

Sir J. Walsham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Madrid, May 12, 1877.*

A SHORT Proclamation enjoining on Spanish subjects in Spain or abroad the strictest neutrality in the war between Russia and Turkey has been published in the

"Gazette" of to-day. Recruiting for the army or navy of either belligerant in Spanish territory, whether by Spanish or foreign agents, is strictly prohibited. A copy of the Proclamation will be sent by post.

No. 163.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 13, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, May 13, 1877, 11 A.M.*

DECISION taken last night to apply orders of the Porte respecting treatment of neutral and enemies' shipping in other ports of the Empire to the Suez Canal. Police of the Canal, including right of visit and search, will be exercised by Egypt.

Porte asked to send naval force to guard both ends of Canal if they maintain decision to stop Russian men-of-war and merchantmen, as Egypt has not the means.

Porte reminded at the same time of the 14th Article of the Act of Concession of 1856, respecting neutrality of the Suez Canal.

No. 164.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 12, 1877, 11 P.M.*

NOTWITHSTANDING the distinct promises given to me, Shefket Pasha was named to a command at Erzeroum. I at once protested most energetically, and demanded that his appointment should be immediately cancelled. This has been done to-day.

No. 165.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, May 13, 1877.*

TURKS should take care water-supply is not cut from Kars. Communicate Constantinople.

No. 166.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 13.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret and Confidential.) *Constantinople, May 13, 1877, 11 A.M.*

SULTAN last week informed his Ministers that he was determined that his Christian subjects should be placed on a complete equality with his Mussulman subjects, and that they should consequently be called upon to serve in the army.

It was yesterday decided in Council of Ministers that the measure should be at once adopted. I attach to this determination, which has been communicated to me most confidentially, great importance.

No. 167.

*The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 13, 1877.*

MR. LAYARD reports that Porte has ordered Commander-in-chief to allow British tugs and lighters to retire, if possible, into Austrian waters. He is to confer on the subject with Her Majesty's Consul at Rustchuk.

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* Repeated to Consul Sanderson.

No. 168.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 14.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Constantinople, May 13, 1877.*

I AM very secretly informed that the Porte proposes to land 10,000 Circassians on Circassian coast, with the object of raising the population and attempting to cut off the Russian lines of communication.

Hobart Pasha would command the expedition if undertaken.

No. 169.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 13, 1877.*

THE news of considerable Turkish success over the Russians near Batoum is confirmed. It was achieved by Turkish irregulars, who are stated to have completely cut off Russian column.

In the Danube the largest Turkish ironclad has been blown up by accident, and the whole crew of 190 men, with the exception of three, killed.

No. 170.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 14, 1·45 P.M.)

Cairo, May 14, 1877, 12·5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, torpedo idea is abandoned, and the defence of the Suez Canal entirely left to the Porte if it maintains its decision, gravity of which is pointed out.

No. 171.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 14, 7 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 14, 1877, 1·30 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from General Kemball, dated yesterday, Sunday, midday:—

"There should be no delusion. Without money and without efficient control the prospect is hopeless for the Turks.

"Their plans and resolutions unexceptionally all unexecuted and beyond their power. Position here very strong, and earth defences, as far as they go, well done, but outer line to east side hardly commenced. Approach by Olti road quite undefended.

"Notwithstanding official assurances, I am credibly informed that neither guns, nor munitions, nor provisions, are stored to sustain siege.

"Turkish position on Toganlidagh very precarious.

"Russian reconnaissances indicate plan to turn Delibaba by Getshewan Pass and Bardeek by Penniek prior to direct advance. If successful, Turks must relinquish lines Toganlidagh or have their retreat interrupted.

"Earthworks at Keuprekeui to cover retreat (where?) Bardeek road meets not even commenced yet. Telegram just received. Pray keep any of the three officers you may require."

No. 172.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 14.)

Constantinople, May 14, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

PORTE does not pretend to interfere with ships lying in a blockaded harbour. They are free to load if they choose, provided they do not carry contraband of war and leave blockaded harbours within term granted, namely 17th instant.

No. 173.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 14, 1877.

ORDERS have been given by the Porte to the Minister of War to leave at Jerusalem a sufficient force to (protect ?) foreigners and Christians.

No. 174.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, May* 15, 1877.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF arrived in Berlin last night. He has communicated your Lordship's note of the 6th instant addressed to himself to Count Bismarck.

It has produced a very favourable impression on the German Government.

No. 175.

Sir C. Wyke to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Copenhagen, May* 15, 1877.

RUSSIAN Legation here are giving large orders for gunpowder in province of Scania, Sweden, hitherto not executed on account of Swedish neutrality.

No. 176.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 15, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May* 15, 1877, 12·39 P.M.

ON the 13th instant Turkish batteries bombarded Kalafat severely. Roumania lost eighty-six killed and wounded. A small loss also at Oltenitza.

Russian army is occupying Little Wallachia in force.

No. 177.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 15, 1877, 5 P.M.

BRITISH shipowners and merchants represent that bad weather in Sea of Azoff has delayed loading of ships, and they fear that there will not be time to complete cargoes before date fixed for leaving ports.

Ask Turkish Government if they will grant a few days' further delay to British vessels in Taganrog and Sea of Azoff ports, which are being loaded with grain actually the property of British subjects, and have been delayed from completing their cargoes by bad weather.

No. 178.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 15, 1877, 5·30 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction the result of your representations as to the proper protection of foreigners and Christians at Jerusalem.

No. 179.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Consular Agents at Odessa, Nicolaieff, Kertch, Taganrog, Kherson, and Berdiansk.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 15, 1877.

AMBASSADOR at Constantinople has reported, in answer to an inquiry addressed to him by telegraph on Saturday, that the Porte does not pretend to interfere with ships lying in blockaded harbours, and that they are free to load provided they do not carry contraband of war, and leave blockaded harbours within terms fixed by Turkish Government.

No. 180.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 15, 1877.

SULTAN having been induced by persons in the Palace to hesitate about granting an amnesty to the imprisoned Bulgarians, I obtained a private audience of His Majesty to-day, and have received his word that the amnesty shall be granted with certain exceptions, which are to be made on an understanding with me.

I write fully by messenger, who leaves to-morrow.

No. 181.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 15, 1877.

THE Porte states that Soukoum Kalé has been bombarded and taken, and that Mussulmans of district have risen against the Russian authorities.

No. 182.

*Mr. Plunkett to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received May* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, May* 15, 1877.

RUSSIAN squadron sails to-morrow from New York under sealed orders, supposed for Cronstadt.

No. 183.

Colonel Nixon to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bagdad, May* 16, 1877.

REPORTED that Hashmutoo Dawylah Shahzidah at Mahomerah has received telegram to the following effect:—

"Persian Ambassador at Constantinople reports Nonsir Pasha Busreh has received order to evacuate Shalha Island. Your Highness will insist on its evacuation; and if Nonsir Pasha refuses, he will be responsible. The English Minister at Tehran has instructed his Agent at Busreh to support you. Final object of assemblage of Persian troops at Mahomerah now apparent. Solicit instructions. Nonsir Pasha received no orders."

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* Repeated to St. Petersburgh and Constantinople.

No. 184.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 17, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 17, 1877, 5 P.M.*

HAVE received following from Vice-Consul at Trebizond, dated yesterday evening:—

"Four iron-clads bombarded and burnt Soukoum-Kalé and two small towns. Upwards of 10,000 Dibasians revolted, killed Russian garrison; 300 asked arms and munitions, which steamers arriving fetched yesterday evening [from?] Batoum."

No. 185.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 17, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 17, 1877, 7 P.M.*

FROM Consul at Erzeroom, dated yesterday:

"Bombarding of Kars commenced noon to-day, Turks making a sortie immediately, but were repulsed. Cannonading very severe.

"Soukoum-Kalé taken by Circassian attack. Heider, Aujellah, and Zehu tribes are joining the Russians in considerable numbers, especially the two last." Consul reports to-day:—"General Kemball has just left for head-quarters at Zinevire."

No. 186.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 17, 1877.*

GRAND VIZIER informs me that 10,000 men embarked to-day for Koumkaleh and parts of the eastern coasts of the Black Sea, where there is already a serious rising of the population. This expedition is to be joined by mounted Circassians who are in Asia and by others to be sent from Constantinople. Transports will touch at Batoum to receive 15,000 breach-loading rifles for distribution among revolted tribes; an attempt will be made to land part of the troops at Redout Kaleh in order to cut the railway to Tiflis. It is hoped that the Russian communications will be then completely cut off. Two months' provisions are also being sent to Circassian coast.

No. 187.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 17, 1877.*

WITH reference to telegram from Consul-General at Bagdad, I have been assured most positively by Persian Minister that no hostile measures will be taken by Persian troops now at Mohammerah, and that question of the island in the Euphrates is settled for the present.

No. 188.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 17, 1877.*

I SPOKE strongly to the Sultan at my private audience about outrages committed by the Circassians. His Majesty immediately sent a message on the subject to the Grand Vizier, who informed me that, in consequence, Circular instructions have been sent to all the provincial authorities directing them to deal most severely with those marauders and to put a stop at once to their excesses.

No. 189.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 17, 1877, 11 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 14th instant, Porte states that it must on principle apply to Russian vessels passing through Suez Canal the same measures as are enforced against them in other parts of the Empire. The draft of a communication to that effect to the Viceroy has been prepared.

No. 190.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 17, 1877, 11 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 15th instant the Porte regrets that it cannot entertain application for further delay in favour of neutral vessels taking in cargo at Taganrog and Sea of Azoff.

No. 191.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 17, 1877.*

I LEARN privately that Emperor of Russia intends going on the 8th of June with Grand Dukes Vladimir and Serge to Ploeschti, the present head-quarters of Grand Duke Nicholas, it is supposed with the object of profiting of the first favourable moment for concluding peace.

Count Schouvaloff arrived last night.

No. 192.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May 18, 1877.*

RUSSIAN head-quarters will probably be immediately transferred to Bucharest, and operations will be directed from hence.

No. 193.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 18, 1877, 11·30 A.M.*

THE following received to-day from Consul Holmes, dated 12th:—

"Freeman arrived. Affair of Glamosch misrepresented. No bride outraged. Confusion and inaccuracy regarding affairs at Otchievo, which was a known resort of insurgents, and which was attacked because Turks had information that Christians were assembling there to destroy Mussulman villages of Orashitza and Tchukowo. Turks declare they were resisted. Details impossible by telegraph. Full report by next post."

No. 194.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 18.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, May 18, 1877.*

I HAVE read to Minister of Foreign Affairs, who returned to Vienna yesterday, your Lordship's letter to Russian Ambassador in London of the 6th instant. He said its contents have apparently ceased to be a secret, as they were already discussed in the

press. With respect to the Suez Canal and Egypt, he sees no probability of their safety being endangered, nor does he believe that the conquest of Constantinople is contemplated by Russia, though he appears to be prepared for her claiming the freedom of the navigation of the Straits, a question on which I think that he concurs in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, though I did not ask him to state his views upon it. As he asked for explanations as to the meaning of your Lordship's observation respecting the Persian Gulf, I said you had only referred to it lightly, but that it was a question which some persons might consider to include Russian conquests in Armenia.

He did not seem to think the reference to the Emperor of Russia's promises respecting Bulgaria is sufficiently explicit, as he said it might be long before Russia considers the peace and safety of the Christian population secured. He also apparently feared that your Lordship's reservation might be interpreted by Russia as leaving her more free action than is desirable.

He looks forward anxiously to the arrival of the Memorandum of the question which Count Beust reports will be shortly forwarded to Vienna.

No. 195.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, May 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

BRITISH steamer "Urbino," which left England on April 14 with cargo of rails for Odessa, is reported to have been stopped at Constantinople. Inquire and report grounds of detention.

No. 196.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 19.)

Constantinople, May 18, 1877, 7·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of the 11th instant, the Governor of the Danube has informed the Grand Vizier that, after communication with the Serdar Ekrem, he thinks English tugs and lighters should not be authorized to ascend the Danube into Austrian waters: firstly, because of the impossibility of acquiring the certainty that they will not be employed by the enemy for hostile purposes; and secondly, for the reason that, if this concession were made to English tugs and lighters, similar facilities could not be refused to those of other nations.

No. 197.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 19.)

Bosna-Serai, May 19, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

FREEMAN started this morning to inquire into impalement cases.

No. 198.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 19.)

Constantinople, May 19, 1877, 2 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I RECEIVED visits yesterday from the Austrian and German Ambassadors and Italian Minister, who had just arrived. Austrian Ambassador expressed a strong desire to act with me, and made many friendly protestations as to agreement of his Government with the policy of Her Majesty's Government.

German Ambassador was reserved and apparently Russian in his tendencies.

Italian Minister said that he was to inform Porte that Italy was resolved to maintain strictest neutrality, and not to engage in any adventures.

No. 199.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 20.)

Constantinople, May 19, 1877, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

CONSUL at Erzeroum telegraphs following, dated to-day, 2 P.M.:—

"Russians before Ardahan carried the two forts called Emirogulu yesterday, but abandoned them this morning, probably after spiking the guns. Losses unknown. In cavalry skirmish near Kars, three days since, Russian General was wounded. Commander-in-chief presses for reinforcements of all kinds. Russian left wing has formed entrenched camp on Ipekyil between Bayazid and Diadin. Circassian excess much on the increase here. Christians without help; considerable alarm.

No. 200.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 20.)

Tiflis, May 19, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

GENERAL FRANCINI goes to Tehran to-day, see despatch No. 60. 20th and 39th Divisions and other troops appear to have been at Ardahan, where the Russians claim victory. They say fourteen battalions and Pasha surrendered. Nothing effected near Batoum or Kars.

No. 201.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 20.)

Tiflis, May 19, 1877, 7 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE fourteen battalions mentioned in my last telegram were not taken prisoners but retreated.

No. 202.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 20.)

Therapia, May 19, 1877, 11 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of 18th instant, steam-ship "Urbino" arrived from Odessa this morning and will leave to-morrow. No question of detention.

No. 203.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 20.)

Constantinople, May 19, 1877, 11·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

GRAND VIZIER has called upon me to say that he has information that the Servians are arming with intention of again making war upon Turkey; and that if the Russians find that they cannot cross the Danube as easily as they expected, will, notwithstanding the assurances given to Austria, pass into Servia. He begged me to state this to Her Majesty's Government.

It appears to me important that Mr. White should be back at Belgrade.

No. 204.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 20.)

Bucharest, May 20, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

IT is rumoured that the Emperor of Russia will come to assist at the passage of the Danube, accompanied by the Czarevitch. The latter will probably accompany the army into Bulgaria for a short time.

No. 205.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 20, 1877.*

WITH reference to Mr. Layard's telegram respecting the Servian armaments, Gastrell reported yesterday that the Hungarian Prime Minister, who had been to Vienna to see Minister for Foreign Affairs, is said to have stated on his return that it is believed Servia will not move at present, but that Austria-Hungary is prepared to occupy Belgrade if necessary.

No. 206.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, May 18, 1877.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram, received this morning, Colonel Nixon, on the 16th, telegraphed to me that the Prince had stated that his demand for the evacuation of Shalha was made with my assent, and I informed him at once that this was not the case.

The Prince has now at Mohamra, besides horse, 1,000 infantry, and more are expected; and as great ill-feeling exists between Turks and Persians there, I yesterday urged Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs to order the Prince, by telegraph, not to attempt to take possession of the island by force. He said that the Prince had received no instructions to do so, but he would not engage to give fresh orders on the subject.

I promised to inquire of Her Majesty's Government whether any understanding had been come to at Constantinople with respect to the evacuation of the island and to let him know the result.

Communicated to the Viceroy.

No. 207.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, May 20, 1877, noon.*

MORE than a fortnight ago considerable military activity was visible, here which has since partly abated. About the same time Prince Milan sent to Russian head-quarters a relative on a special mission, with a view to learn Russia's intentions concerning Servia, and to complain of Russian Representative at Belgrade. The latter has been recalled from his post since and was instructed by Prince Gortchakow to communicate to Prince Milan before his departure in a very decisive tone that the Imperial Government expects no co-operation from Servia, and recommends her to keep quiet. Notwithstanding such a discouragement, Prince Milan has sent the same relative again to the Grand Duke and it remains to be seen whether this second mission will have a different result.

On account of the incessant rain during five days some places are submerged. Danube again rising. Roads impracticable.

No. 208.

Major-General Stanton to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Munich, May 20, 1877.*

I AM informed on good authority that 4,000 stand of old pattern breech-loading rifles, which had been recently sold by the Bavarian Government, left Munich a few days since for Italy. I have reason to believe these arms were bought on Russian account, and imagine they are destined for Albania or Montenegro.

No. 209.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 21, 1877, 1 P.M.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW begged me to-day to inform your Lordship that Emperor fully appreciated the frankness of the exposition of the views of Her Majesty's Government contained in your letter of the 6th instant to Count Schouvaloff.

Same frankness would be evinced in the answer which was preparing, and of which Count Schouvaloff would be bearer.

His Highness said that he should keep it completely secret, and not even communicate it to Austria or Germany, and added that Count Schouvaloff would leave for London a few days after the Emperor's departure on the 2nd of June.

(Very Confidential.)

It appears to me that the object of Prince Gortchakow is to lure England by delay into maintaining a passive attitude until it will be too late to prevent occupation of Constantinople by Russia.

No. 210.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 21, 1877, 2·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 18th instant, Mr. Layard telegraphed on the 17th instant that he had been assured most positively by Persian Minister that no hostile measures would be taken by Persian troops now at Mohammerah, and that the question of the island in the Euphrates is settled for the present.

No. 211.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 21, 1877, 3 P.M.*

INDO-EUROPEAN Telegraph Company state that their land-line has been interrupted between Adler and Suchum Kaleh by operations of Turkish fleet, and that their mechanicians have not been able to approach the stations to repair damages. Call attention of Turkish Government with reference to instructions reported to have been issued in your telegram of the 11th May.

No. 212.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.[*]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 21, 1877, 4·50 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Government have communicated to Sir A. Buchanan despatch of May 6 to their Representatives at St. Petersburgh and Constantinople respecting free navigation of the Danube. I have asked that Austrian Representative may be instructed to communicate it to you, and you will address a representation to the Government to which you are accredited, similar to that which the Austrian Representative has been instructed to make.

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[*] A similar telegram was addressed to Mr. Layard.

No. 213.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 21, 1877.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 450 of the 14th instant, ask Austrian Government to be good enough to instruct their Representatives at St. Petersburgh and Constantinople by telegraph to communicate to Her Majesty's Representative copy of Austrian despatch of 6th instant, respecting free navigation of the Danube. Her Majesty's Representatives have been instructed to address representations to Russian and Turkish Governments similar to those which the Austrian Representatives have been directed to make.

No. 214.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rustchuk, May 21, 1877.*

THE Government journal here, speaking to the Mussulmans of the war, calls it the war of religion waged by the Sultan against the unbelievers.

Nothing else important.

No. 215.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May 21, 1877.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has just announced that he considers Roumania independent, and is at war with the Porte.

No. 216.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 21, 1877, 2·20 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Consul at Erzeroum, dated yesterday:—

"Russians captured Ardahan yesterday morning. Garrison supposed to have fled after the assault reported in my last telegram. Further details to-morrow. The General[a] reached head-quarters yesterday."

No. 217.

Colonel Nixon to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Baydad, May 21, 1877.*

PERSIAN Shahzadah at Mohammerah constructing four forts, two on Shat el Arab and two at mouth of Karoon River. There is an assemblage of troops going on at Kermanshah and Sevendej, in Persia; object unknown.

No. 218.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 22.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, May 22, 1877.*

I UNDERSTAND that Count Andrassy considers the Roumanian declaration of independence as an act which is provisionally unimportant, as its recognition will eventually depend on the decision of the Powers, but that he is in some doubt as to the right of the Principality to declare war and to be acknowledged as a belligerent.

[a] i.e., Sir Arnold Kemball.

No. 219.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 22.)

Vienna, May 22, 1877.

(Telegraphic.) INSTRUCTIONS, in accordance with your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, will be forwarded to-day to the Austrian Ambassadors at St. Petersburgh and Constantinople.

No. 220.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 22, 1877, 4·50 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with surprise and dissatisfaction from your telegram the sudden withdrawal of the consent previously given for British tugs and lighters on the Danube to pass into Austrian waters.

Press on the Porte the immediate reconsideration of this question.

No. 221.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 23.)

Cairo, May 22, 1877, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.) WITH reference to my telegrams of the 13th and 14th instant, Porte has replied to the Viceroy that the right, on which it insists, to capture Russian merchantmen or men-of-war presenting themselves at Port Saïd or Suez for passage through the Suez Canal need not conflict with the right of neutrals.

Porte leaves to Egypt capture of merchantmen, but offers protection against Russian men-of-war.

Porte interprets Article 14 of the Concession not as neutralizing the Canal, but as granting equal right of passage to all merchantmen, subject always to the right of the Sovereign to capture enemies' vessels, as in the other ports of the Empire.

No. 222.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 23.)

Bucharest, May 23, 1877.

(Telegraphic.) YESTERDAY, on the occasion of the eleventh anniversary of the accession of Prince Charles, the Senate and Chamber presented addresses, in which the independence of Roumania was as good as proclaimed. The Prince replied in the same sense. Torch-light demonstration in the evening before the Palace and the houses of the Minister President and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 223.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 23.)

Therapia, May 23, 1877, 9·50 A.M.

(Telegraphic.) WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Austrian Ambassador informs me that the Porte has given him assurances that he considers satisfactory that freedom of navigation of Danube shall be respected for vessels ascending above junction of Timok.

No. 224.

*The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 23, 1877, 4·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of 13th instant, Turkish Commander-in-chief on Danube raises objections to permitting English tugs and lighters to ascend into Austrian waters.

Mr. Layard instructed to express dissatisfaction, and press for reconsideration.

No. 225.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 23, 1877, 6·45 P.M.*

YOUR despatch No. 421 of 8th instant referred to Admiralty.

Decision as to Captain Hobart having been taken by Her Majesty's Government with reference to neutrality of this country, and having been announced in the House of Commons, cannot be altered.

No. 226.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 23, 1877, 11 A.M.*

TELEGRAM from Vice-Consul at Trebizond, dated yesterday morning:—"Official information. On 19th Sabre Pasha fled from Ardahan almost without resisting, and with only 150 killed. Troops, following his example, disbanded."

Porte has received information that Russian army, 35,000 strong, has captured Ardahan. Turkish loss, 26 pieces of artillery, and a number of old and useless cannon; about 150 killed, and as many wounded, amongst latter General Hussein Pasha.

No. 227.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 23, 1877, 2 P.M.*

M. CHRISTICH has just read me a telegram which he has received from M. Ristich, and communicated to the Porte, containing most positive assurances that Servian Government are not concentrating troops, and have no intention whatever of attacking Turkey. He told me in strict confidence that the Russian Consul-General had been inciting Servian Government to attack Turkey, and that he had probably been recalled because Emperor disapproved of proceedings.

No. 228.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 23, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 21st instant, Porte states that Indo-European telegraph has been injured by bombardment of Soukoum Kaleh. Orders had been sent to Commanders of Turkish ships to spare the line, but it was found impossible to obey them; and, though deeply regretting the circumstance, the Porte does not see how orders could be given at the present moment to enable the engineers to repair the line in a town which is in a state of rebellion.

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* A similar telegram to Consul Sanderson.

No. 229.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 23, 1877.*

TELEGRAMS from Sir A. Kemball of 20th and 21st instant report fall of Ardahan and as follows:—

"He states that his worst fears are realized, and that a speedy retreat on Erzinghian is inevitable; that without money, provisions, and cavalry, Mouktar Pasha can do nothing. Positions of Soghanlee Dagh too extensive for available force; may be turned or cut in two. Kars with 30 battalions supposed to be safe against any odds. He doubts whether Mouktar Pasha will have time to make provision even for defence of Erzinghian. Army very short of supplies. Artillery limited to 12 horse-batteries, 1 of which is at Ardahan, 3 at Kars, 1 at Bardek (the head-quarters from whence he telegraphs), 2 at Toprakale, 1 at (name illegible), and 1 supposed to be at Erzinghian, ? 18 mountain guns distributed upon Soghanlee Dagh. The defence of Soghanlee Dagh against superior force of Russians, especially in cavalry, is obviously impracticable (?) under existing conditions. Mouktar Pasha agrees in opinion with Kemball, and may have, sooner or later, to act upon it, retreating on Erzinghian to make provision for the defence of that place.

Consul at Erzeroum telegraphs to-day that Ardahan road to Erzeroum is now open, being only defended by 6 battalions at Penek, 3 at Olti, and 2 in the Gourgigaz to a few miles east of Hinsk (?) Head-quarters' out-post of right wing has advanced into Penek district and has been seen close to the town. This advance threatens the Commander-in-chief's left flank. Russian left wing has divided: 1 column is approaching Kara Kalissa, where Turks have left in their? light? battalion; the other proceeds to Hardish, where ( ) skirmishes with van troops have occurred. Much movement observed in Russian centre, Commander-in-chief gone to Chakorbadiro? Consul further reports serious excitement and dissatisfaction among Mahommedans at Erzeroum. From Kemball's account, Erzeroum and all Armenia will speedily fall into the hands of the Russians, and in a private letter to me, he expresses opinion that they intend to keep it. He adds that even now, with money and some 20 English officers to control its expenditure and mould the available force, he would not despair of turning back Russians. But it will soon be too late, and it is for Her Majesty's Government to judge of the consequences of the possession of Armenia by Russia.

No. 230.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 24, 1877.*

BLUHM PASHA informs me that his plan for the fortification of the lines for the defence of Constantinople at Buyuktchemedji has been adopted; that 15 redoubts are to be constructed first, and the rest of the works will be begun in a month.

Sir C. Dickson will see what is going on there and at Adrianople, where some further defensive works are, I understand, to be constructed.

No. 231.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 24, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) (Secret.) *Bucharest, May 24, 1877.*

THE Russians have numbers of boats and pontoons at Ibraila, Galatz, and Reni. Can get others at Oltenitza and Turnu, although Turks have taken away a great many. Large quantity of timber for bridging purposes is coming by rail from Galicia.

No. 232.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 24, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Constantinople, May 24, 5 P.M.*

I HAD a very long conversation with the Sultan this morning. I have informed him fully of the state of affairs in Asia, of which he was ignorant, and placed before him without reserve the condition of his Empire. The result of it leads me to make the following suggestions for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

Judging from Kemball's reports, telegraphed to your Lordship yesterday, the whole of Armenia must very shortly be occupied by Russia. The great rise of the Danube will, I am informed on good authority, render it impossible for the Russians to cross the river within a month or more. Considering this state of things, and terrible calamities which will be brought upon Mahommedans and Christians alike by a prolongation of the war, could not some effort be made by Her Majesty's Government with a view to peace?

Russia now holds a material guarantee. What does she require for the better government and protection of Christians of Turkey? The Porte has already done much in the direction pointed out at the Conference; it is ready to do more, and I incline to think anything reasonable would be conceded by the Sultan. If the object of Russia be really to obtain an amelioration in the condition of the Christians of Turkey, she could now obtain it. If her object is to obtain territory, and to carry out ambitious designs, England might hold language which might check her.

I cannot fully explain my ideas in a telegram, but I think your Lordship will understand them. Should you think them worthy of consideration, I think I could do a good deal here through the Sultan; and, after her successes in Armenia, Russia might by pressure be induced to pause. This war has already caused a great deal of misery, and it is impossible to foresee grave consequences to which it may lead.

No. 233.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 25.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Constantinople, May 24, 1877.*

THE Sultan dropped a hint to me this morning that if peace could be made with Montenegro, through the mediation of Her Majesty's Government, he would be prepared, at their suggestion, to make some territorial concession to the Principality, provided that too much were not asked. The proposal could not come from him, he said, but only from Her Majesty's Government.

I told His Majesty that I was afraid the demands of Montenegro, backed by Russia, would now be far greater than anything he could agree to. He begged me to consider what had passed between us as most secret.

No. 234.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 25, 1877.*

PORTE did not quite actually promise to allow English tugs and lighters to ascend the Danube into Austrian waters, but, as I stated in my telegram of the 11th instant, made it conditional on approval of Commander-in-chief: he considered the proposal open to objection, and permission was refused. I have pressed the Porte on the subject, but without result. Porte states that permission was about to be given to permit these vessels to ascend above Tmok, when it learnt that three Austrian vessels had been sold to the Russians, and orders had been given to fire upon them and all other vessels that leave their present anchorage, to prevent the enemy from buying or taking them. Similar communication has been made to Austrian Ambassador.

No. 235.

Consul Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, May 24, 1877.*

TELEGRAPH office refuses to receive telegrams for Embassy and places in Turkey except in Turkish language.

No. 236.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 25.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Constantinople, May 25, 1877.*

HOBART PASHA left last night for the Black Sea. I have reason to suspect that he meditates an attack upon Odessa with the Turkish fleet.

No. 237.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, May 25, 1877, noon.*

NOT likely that Servia of her own accord should renew hostilities, but it is expected here that the Principality will be ere long dragged into the war by Russia, and, consequently, preparations are quietly and imperceptibly going on.

The only apparent security against such a contingency are the objections to such a course being adopted by the Russian Government supposed to be entertained by Austria; but unless these take more decisive form than indications hitherto given here, and while it is yet time, it may be too late. Opinion gaining ground here both that Austrian menaces may be disregarded, and that the Slavonic influence on the Emperor Alexander favourable to Servian co-operation is increasing.

Sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

No. 238.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 25, 1877, 4·30 P.M.*

CONSUL GREEN telegraphs that telegraph office refuses to receive telegrams for Embassy and places in Turkey except in Turkish language.

Request Turkish Government to rescind this order so far as telegrams from Her Majesty's Consular Agents in Turkey are concerned.

No. 239.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 25, 6·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 25, 1877, 3·15 P.M.*

YESTERDAY a number of Softas went to the Parliament House and demanded immediate dismissal of Minister of War and Sultan's brother-in-law. Deputation admitted to Chamber. Deputies and President communicated the demand to the Grand Vizier, who has refused to comply and state of siege is proclaimed. I have urgently represented to His Highness the great importance of avoiding the application of this measure to foreigners, and he has promised me that orders shall be given to the authorities not to molest them in any way.

(Most Confidential.)

Grand Vizier states, and I believe with some reason, that demonstration of yesterday was brought about by Mr. Butler Johnstone, who by his money and intrigues is doing a

great deal of mischief. It is most unfortunate that it should have taken place, as the Sultan was about to dismiss both Ministers, and now he cannot yield to intimidation.

No. 240.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, May 23, 1877.*

GOVERNOR of Ardahan supposed to have been bribed. See my despatch No. 80. An attempt is, I hear, being made to bribe Governor and people of Kars. Grand Duke goes to Alexandropol.

No. 241.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 25, 1877.*

I HAVE induced Minister for Foreign Affairs to declare that the Porte will direct Nassir Pasha, of Busra, not to interfere with the island in the Euphrates, provided the Persians will engage not to raise any buildings upon it until the question of ownership be decided. Persian Minister considers the proposal fair and has promised to recommend his Government, by telegraph, to accept it. A word from your Lordship at Tehran would be useful. The only other question at this moment between Persia and Turkey is the removal from Bagdad of Abbas Mirza, to which the Shah appears to attach an exaggerated importance. I have telegraphed to Consul-General at Bagdad to make every effort to get the Prince to agree to the proposal of the Porte; that he should come to Constantinople on a visit if he will not consent to go elsewhere. I would be glad if you would telegraph to him in the same sense. I have begged Persian Minister not to raise any other question, and he has promised not to do so, but I, of course, cannot say he will not. Porte seems disposed to send an Ambassador to Tehran at once, and if a proper man were selected for the post it would be a good thing for it to do.

I have sent above to Tehran.

No. 242.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 25, 1877, 6·10 P.M.*

I HAVE urged Grand Vizier to take immediate steps to inquire into circumstances of the escape of the Greek brigands from Janina (?), about which Mr. Stuart has written to your Lordship, and to punish Hussein Pasha if it is proved that he connived at it. His Highness has promised to do this.

No. 243.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 26, 1877.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, I now find Hobart Pasha was unable to leave yesterday.

No. 244.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, May 26, 1877, 8 A.M.*

THE Viceroy, before officially promulgating new regulations for the Suez Canal in accordance with the last decision of the Porte, as reported in my telegram of the 22nd

instant, asks if Her Majesty's Government have any objections thereto, or any modifications to propose, and offers to adopt and urge as his own at Constantinople the views of Her Majesty's Government before it is too late. I have conveyed to the Viceroy the sense of your Lordship's despatch No. 68 of the 16th instant.

No. 245.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May 26, 1877.*

THE following is from trustworthy sources:—Division of the 9th Russian Corps crosses Alata River to-day for Kalafat, whence Widdin will be shelled at an early date with the heaviest guns by Russians and Roumanians, and, if possible, be rendered untenable.

No. 246.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 26.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, May 26, 1877.*

IT it reported to me that the Russians are not making long or extensive contracts for corn. On all sides it is reported that there is an impression at the Russian head-quarters that Russia may, perhaps, be disposed to treat, and will not cross the Danube. I do not know whether these rumours have any significance.

No. 247.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May 26, 1877, 4 P.M.*

RUSSIAN troops have already some difficulty in obtaining provisions even in this country. Meat and forage very scarce.

No. 248.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May 26, 1877, 5 P.M.*

OUR Vice-Consul in Little Wallachia reports to me that he has secret information that measures are being ordered which would indicate that a Russian force might cross the Danube at Pristolu, above Widdin, and take the line of the Timoc.

No. 249.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, May 26, 1877, 4 P.M.*

A TURKISH turret-ship struck a torpedo and was lost near Ibraila this morning. Russian Circassian troops are being sent back towards Russia. Weather wet. River high.

No. 250.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, May 26, 1877.*

GENERAL FRANKINI gone to Tehran to induce Persia to take part against Turkey.

No. 251.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 27, 1877, 1·45 P.M.*

I HAVE seen the draft of the Encyclical addressed by the Greek Patriarch to the metropolitans, bishops, and faithful of the Greek Church, which will be published immediately. It denounces the war urged by Russia as unjust and unnecessary, and as not being made in the interest of the Christians, and it calls upon the Greeks to support the Sultan. Such an appeal has never been addressed before to the Greeks and the Greek Church, and may have great effect, even in Russia. I believe it to be quite spontaneous, and it affords a very remarkable proof of the real feeling among the Christians in this country.

No. 252.

Sir J. Walsham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Madrid, May 27, 1877, 3 P.M.*

VICE-CONSUL at Cartagena reports arrival there on the 24th instant, from Spezia, of Russian man-of-war "Petropaulovski," carrying thirty-four guns, and with crew of 650 men. She remains in port, her Captain having left for Madrid.

No. 253.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 27.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, May 27, 1877, 2·30 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador at Vienna will arrive here to-night, and his report of the views of the Austrian Government will decide nature of the answer of the Russian Government to your Lordship's letter to Russian Ambassador in London.

I have had an interview with the Russian Ambassador to London this morning. He will leave on Sunday next for London, and he hopes that the answer (?) he will be able to give will be satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government. He considers that the Dardanelles question cannot be treated by Russia and Turkey alone; but in concert with Europe. He assured me that terms of future peace will be concerted with European Powers. As regards Roumanian independence, Russia, he says, disapproves it, and will take no steps in regard to it without European concert. I could perceive that doubts are entertained of Austria, and fears that England will be influenced by her as regards future organisation of Christian provinces of Turkey.

No. 254.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 27, 1877, 7·45 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Military Secretary at Erzeroom, Friday afternoon:—

"Returned yesterday morning from Bardek. Russian reconnaissance reported towards Pennek and Olti, and in direction of Van, but main body apparently attempting capture of Kars. Very little progress made here for completion of earthworks towards Hassan Kale and on Olti road. Heavy guns and ammunition on the road from Trebizond,

thanks to Hamil Pasha; but so many of the wheels of the gun-carriages found rotten, looking like foul play. No news of garrison of Ardahan. All, with the exception of some 500 fugitives, supposed to be captured."

No. 255.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 27, 1877, 7·45 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Consul at Erzeroom, dated to-day:—

"Bombardment at Kars, after continuing at intervals for three days, has ceased. Convoy of twelve carts, and one of forty-six horses, and ammunition proceeding to Van taken by Russians near Ertich. Head-quarters of Van division reported at Baghiri. Russian column coming from left wing advancing towards it. Frequent skirmishes between outposts. Decisive action expected. Russian scouts seen close to Olti. Sabri Pasha, commander of the forces at Ardahan, reported to have fled before assault. Few of the garrison escaped. Eighty-four heavy guns, four field batteries, and some mountain guns were taken. Orders sent to bring Government property at Olti to this.

No. 256.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 27, 1877, 11·45 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Consul Blunt, dated yesterday:—

"I arrived last night, and this morning presented to the Governor-General letter of the Grand Vizier about amnesty. Its instructions are in the sense promised by his Highness. Governor-General immediately telegraphed to Philippopolis and Sofia for detailed list of prisoners, and has assured me that he will do his best to give effect to the Sultan's humane intentions.

"Four days ago twenty-five Greek robbers, supposed to be from Greece, landed at Maronia, near Delengatch, and seized and carried off to the mountains in the vicinity a Greek notable and policeman. A force of 200 men is in Spezia pursuing, and last account states that the robbers are surrounded."

No. 257.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 28, 1877.*

FOLLOWING telegram from Sir A. Kemball, dated Erzeroum, 27th, P.M.:—

"We hear that Penneck part of army has retired on Olti, and Moukhtar Pasha from Bardeek on Keugsrikim; forces from Delibaba and Melasgrad also supposed to be retreating on Kuprikeui. Assault on Kars reported unsuccessful, but place invested."

No. 258.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May 28, 1877.*

THE Prince of Servia will visit the Russian headquarters during sojourn of the Emperor in Roumania.

No. 259.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 28, 1877.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW has replied to my note on navigation of Danube in the same sense as to the Austrian Cabinet, stating that obstacles caused by war are only provisional; that Imperial Cabinet will do all that is possible to confine them in extent and duration within the limits necessitated by war, and engages to come to an understanding with the Austro-Hungarian Government to re-establish the freedom of the river at the earliest moment. Copy sent to-day by post.

No. 260.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 28, 1877, 3·30 P.M.*

MR. LAYARD has telegraphed the terms to which he has obtained the consent of the Porte for the settlement of the question respecting the island in the Euphrates. These terms appear to Her Majesty's Government to be fair and just, and you will recommend Persian Government to accede to them.

I have instructed Colonel Nixon to endeavour to induce Abbas Mirza to go to Constantinople, if he will not go elsewhere.

No. 261.

The Earl of Derby to Colonel Nixon.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 28, 1877, 5 P.M.*

I AM informed that Shah of Persia attaches great importance to removal of Abbas Mirza from Bagdad. Endeavour to induce him to accept Porte's invitation to Constantinople, if he will not go elsewhere.

No. 262.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 28, 1877, 5·30 P.M.*

DO you know anything of a menace of Herat by Persia, the report of which has reached Viceroy of India? Telegraph answer immediately.

No. 263.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 29, 5·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *St. Petersburgh, May 29, 1877, 1·20 P.M.*

I HAVE received secret information that a Russian Admiral named Crown, appointed Russian Naval Agent in America, left very secretly for his post about two months ago, with instructions to purchase and equip in America vessels of "Alabama" class to act against English commerce in the event of war.

No. 264.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Crete, May 29, 1877.*

SACRILEGE of a Christian church by Turkish soldiers. Great indignation.

No. 265.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 29, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, May 26, 1877.*

PORTE should take care Kars be not taken by (bribery?); also that Kurds be not bribed. If necessary, please communicate to Constantinople. Circassians in revolt near Soukhoum Kaleh.

No. 266.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 29, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May 29, 1877.*

CHAMBER met yesterday. M. Deligeorges having been defeated on election of President, resigned immediately. M. Coumoundouros has been requested to form a Government.

No. 267.

Lieutenant-Colonel Nixon to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 29, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bagdad, May 29, 1877.*

PRINCE ABBAS MIRZA has agreed to go to Constantinople on condition that he is received with the same honours as previously. Ambassador states that these terms are not acceptable to Porte. Therefore I have told him to go (*sic*).

No. 268.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, May 29, 1877, 5·20 P.M.*

VICEROY telegraphed to me on the 25th respecting Seistan, and menace of Herat by Persia: following is substance of my reply sent next day.

Similar reports were current here some weeks ago. They originated in a rumour that the Affghans had invaded Seistan, which proved to be only a bazaar report. The Persian Government totally disbelieved the rumour, and I ascertained from them at the time that they had no intention of dispatching troops to Seistan.

There has been no indication here of there being any desire on the part of Persia to menace Herat. On the contrary, the Persians were for some time under considerable apprehension in consequence of military preparations being made in Affghanistan.

No. 269.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May 30, 1877, 12·20 P.M.*

ON the 26th instant the Russian military authorities sunk two lighters flying the British ensign, laden with corn at Corabia.

I have asked for information and explanation from the Roumanian Government.

No. 270.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Nixon.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 30, 1877, 2·40 P.M.*

YOUR telegram not clear. Is Prince going to Constantinople or not?

No. 271.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 30, 1877, 4·45 P.M.

COUNT ADLERBERG invited Captain Wellesley to-day, by order of the Emperor, to accompany Russian army. Count Adlerberg mentioned Count Schouvaloff as having represented displeasure in England at his not having been invited before.

Answer requested immediately, as Count Adlerberg leaves with the Emperor on Saturday next.

No. 272.

Lieutenant-Colonel Nixon to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 31, 11·45 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bagdad, May* 31, 1877, 9·30 A.M.

PRINCE promises to leave in a few days; want of money and a (quantity) of obstacles.

No. 273.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Vivian.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1877, 2·15 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 26th, Her Majesty's Government have nothing to add to the instructions respecting the Suez Canal sent to you on the 16th.

No. 274.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 31, 3·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May* 31, 1877, 1 P.M.

TUG "Anngaete," belonging to Danube Tug and Lighter Company, after having been struck lately by a Turkish shell, was sunk, by order of the Russians, on the 26th May, at Flaminda.

I have asked for a report on the subject from the Roumanian Government.

No. 275.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1877, 4 P.M.

REPORTS of an intended Russian advance on Merve have been received from Viceroy of India. Have you any information on the subject, or can you ascertain from Napier if he knows anything of it? According to our latest information Russians should not be nearer to Merve than Kizil Arvart.

No. 276.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 31, 1877.

FOLLOWING telegram from Kemball, dated 30th instant:—

"Still no decisive indication of Russian plan of operations, whether to undertake capture of Kars, or mask that place and march on Euphrates. Russians occupied Penneck, but have not advanced on other line to Keuprikeui. Turkish left close column has retired to Olti, centre and right have column still in the position they held

on my visit to front. They have not yet retired to Keuprikeui, as before surmised, but may be expected to retire when enemy shows himself in force. Skirmishes reported from Kars and Khelat of no importance. No (movement) towards Van as yet reported. Turks are working to complete defences on Devetoyoun and on Olti road. Guns come up from Trebizond, but no provisions have been stored in Erzeroum in the event of Russia occupying the Olti road and cutting the supplies with cavalry.

No. 277.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1877.

HER Majesty's Government have been informed that, up to the 22nd instant, there was no Turkish naval force stationed off Odessa to maintain the blockade. State this to the Porte, and inquire whether the blockade has been made effective.